

From: Lynn and Nancy Trowbridge
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 1:02pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir:

Attached please find a letter in relating to a case currently under review in your office. I appreciate your careful consideration of my opinion regarding this case. The letter is in Microsoft Office97 Word format.

Very truly yours,
Lynn M. Trowbridge, Ph.D.

1211 Ames Hill Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301-4254
January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to address the recent decision reached by Microsoft and the Department of Justice. As everyone is aware, the Department of Justice brought an antitrust suit against the company. I am now retired, but my professional life was spent as a software programmer/manager contracting services to the Federal government in Washington, D.C. I am well aware of the quality of computer products and believe my comments to be relevant.

Microsoft produces the best commercially available operating system in the country. There are other companies that offer, in my opinion, better software products in other categories, and I am free to use them as I see fit. Microsoft, while it dominates part of the market, dominates that part because it produces a number of excellent products. It does not dominate the entire software market. To punish a company because they make quality products is uncalled for and unwise. Microsoft has contributed mightily to this country's understanding of computers, making them accessible to the average layperson, and, in return, the company has profited. This is entirely in keeping with the American free-market system.

I am happy to see that Microsoft will not be broken up under terms of the settlement. In my opinion, however, Microsoft is being suitably punished for alleged unfair practices. The company is disclosing internal interfaces and protocols to competitors, agreeing not to retaliate against software developers who develop or promote software that competes with Windows, and forming a three-person team to monitor compliance with the settlement.

Although the court decisions are perhaps flawed and the punishments may not be fully justified, immediate settlement of these suits is definitely in the best interests of the public. I take a strong stand against further litigation and hope the government will bring the recently reached settlement to fruition and move on to the solution of other more important national problems. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Trowbridge, Ph.D.

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